

Firefighting



Birch Creek's Flying Squadrons

Four "flying squadrons" of elite firefighters were organized at Birch Creek. Each consisted of a foreman, two leaders, two assistant leaders, and 21 men. They traveled by truck, not air, but mobilized quickly to fight fires in the area. Each squadron was equipped to be self-supporting, with food, fuel, tents, and tools for 72 hours.



Marine Pump

A gasoline powered marine pump was capable of sending water uphill in a standard size fire hose for approximately 400 ft or downhill 600 ft.



Facts

- 29 men were killed while fighting fires
- Over 6 million man-days were spent fighting fires
- Built 68,000 firebreaks
- Built 3,400 fire lookouts



Fire Prevention

To help prevent forest fires the CCC built firebreaks, roads, fire lookouts, and airfields, cleared debris and patrolled the area.

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